

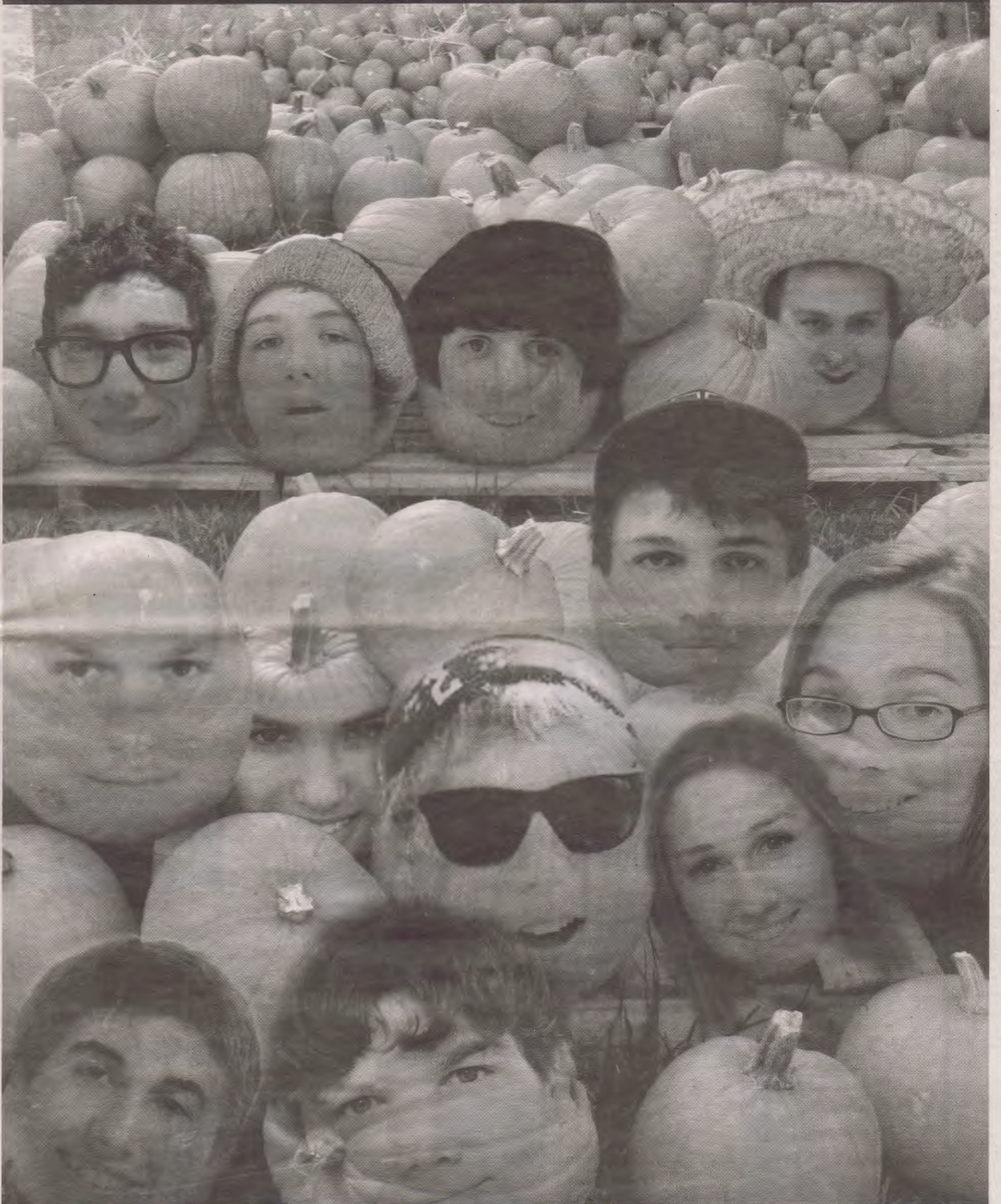
MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

DURHAM, NH 03824

ISSUE ONE

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NEWS

Big Green Bus
School Lunches
Allen Takes the Helm

FEATURES

Ripe Bananas
Chillin' With Chili
Daily Dose of Morin

OP-ED

Letter from the Editor
Pledge of Allegiance
Senior Thoughts

SPORTS

A Born Skier
Chirping
Sports Summaries

MEET THE STAFF

Alex Harling



Emerson Maclean



Matt Carey



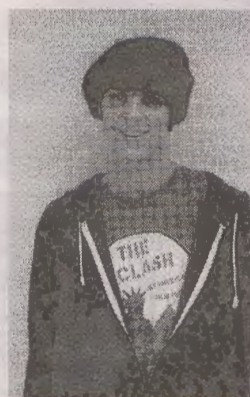
Sophie Webb



Chad Burns



Christian Sibrilli



Jenny Taylor



Kesley Hails



Genja Teleganov



Annika Barth



Adelia Couser



Nick Chiodo



Zander Hobbs



Katie Burzon



Billy Sturtevant



Harry Stepien



Logan Miller



ALLEN TAKES THE HELM



Sophie Webb
News Co-editor

You may have noticed the bespectacled man with the beard who walks around with the walkie talkie during fire drills. His name is Mr. Todd Allen, the new principal of Oyster River High School.

Mr. Allen has been a teacher at Oyster River Middle school for 26 years. In 2008 he accepted the job of assistant principal at Oyster River Middle a position he held until 2011. At the end of last year Mr. Allen was asked to be the interim principal at Oyster River High School.

"I plan on bringing calm, to the school" said Allen. "After last

year's walk out, I think the students as well as the as faculty need to calm down and take a step back from the situation; this school has never really been a 'normal' high school and I plan on taking that and bring us above normal."

Last year, students walked out of class to protest the hiring process the board made on a Candidate that was believed to be the best applicant out of the near 50 that were received. Howard Colter, the now retired ORCSD Superintendent asked Allen to be the new Interim principal, without him putting an application in.

Mr. Allen said he has many goals for this year. His primary goal is to have a good, productive year and having students stay focused on learning. "We really want our kids to be successful," says Allen.

With any job comes challenges. The biggest challenge that Mr. Allen discussed recently was the way he thinks much of the student body perceives him. He said he believes many students think he is stricter than Mrs. Rogers the former principal although he does not perceive himself that way.

Mr. Allen said in high school students want, and should be afforded, more independence. The high school atmosphere is a lot more relaxed than in middle school and there are a lot more choices for students, he said. Mr. Allen said that has been a big thing to adjust to.

One of his biggest concerns is students leaving campus. Mr. Allen said he is trying to make the rules clear to the students about leaving campus. Students must go through a certain process, including getting a permission form, note, and a grade point average of 3.0 or better, and be a Junior or Senior to leave campus he said.

Mr. Allen was a teacher for a very long time and in the past few years has taken on more administrative positions in schools. Mr. Allen graduated from the University of Maine, earning his bach-

elors degree in 1985. He then went on to earn his master's degree from Notre Dame in 2001. He got his educational specialist degree from University of New Hampshire in 2010.

Mr. Allen became a teacher at Oyster River Middle School in 1985. When he was asked which he preferred -teaching or being a principal- he said that it really depends on the day. He said he misses having daily contact with students like he could while teaching, but he likes being able to tackle "whole school" problems and make a bigger difference to more people.

Some of Mr. Allen's main responsibilities here are to run the school, budget, staff, the "school in need of improvement" project, the curriculum, and in general to supervise.

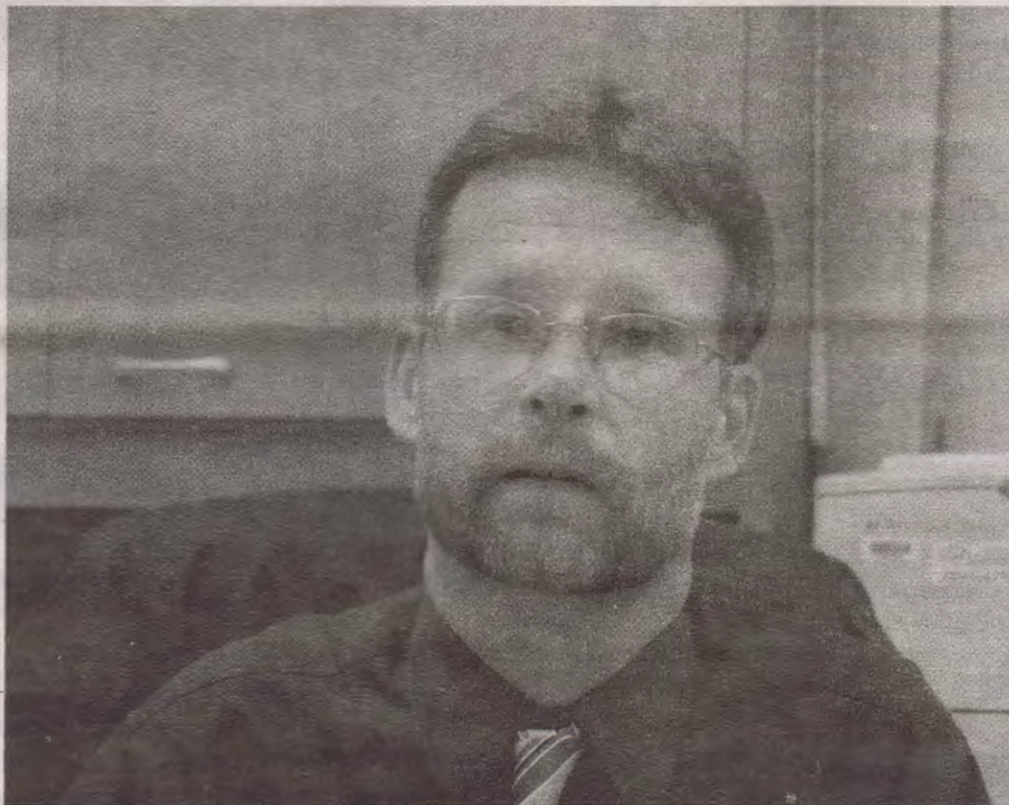
"There is a lot that I have learned within the first few weeks as being the principal at ORHS," said Allen. "My wife handles my checkbook at home, and now I have an 11.7 million dollar budget that I have to balance."

One teacher interviewee gives him the thumbs up. "So far he's done a great job, he seems like a straight shooter" says Industrial arts teacher Mr. Troy. "He's got a great concern for students and the program. He is very supportive, and the man looks you in the eye when he speaks to you, that's when you know a good man when you see one."

If given the opportunity, Mr. Allen said he would like to stay on as the principal at ORHS. "I enjoy working at the high school because it gives me a chance to reconnect with kids I had in Middle School," said Allen.

Adrian Schidloosky contributed to this article.

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Mr. Allen in his office

RESIDENT ACCUSES SCHOOL BOARD OF WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC



Matt Carey
News Writer

Resident Alleges School Board Keeping Public in the Dark

A Durham resident has filed a lawsuit against the School Board and its chairman, alleging the board has been conducting business outside the public view.

David Taylor recently filed the suit in Strafford County Superior Court on the grounds the board and Chairman Henry Brackett allegedly abused the regulations put in place by the Right To Know law, RSA 91-A.

According to the law, public bodies are required to publicly release their statements, documents, and information about meetings. The exception is what's called a "non-meeting", which is defined by a set of requirements, including the presence of a lawyer. Taylor said he believes the board has been meeting with a legal representative in order to avoid releasing public information.

Taylor, who recently ended his 12-year tenure on the board, has

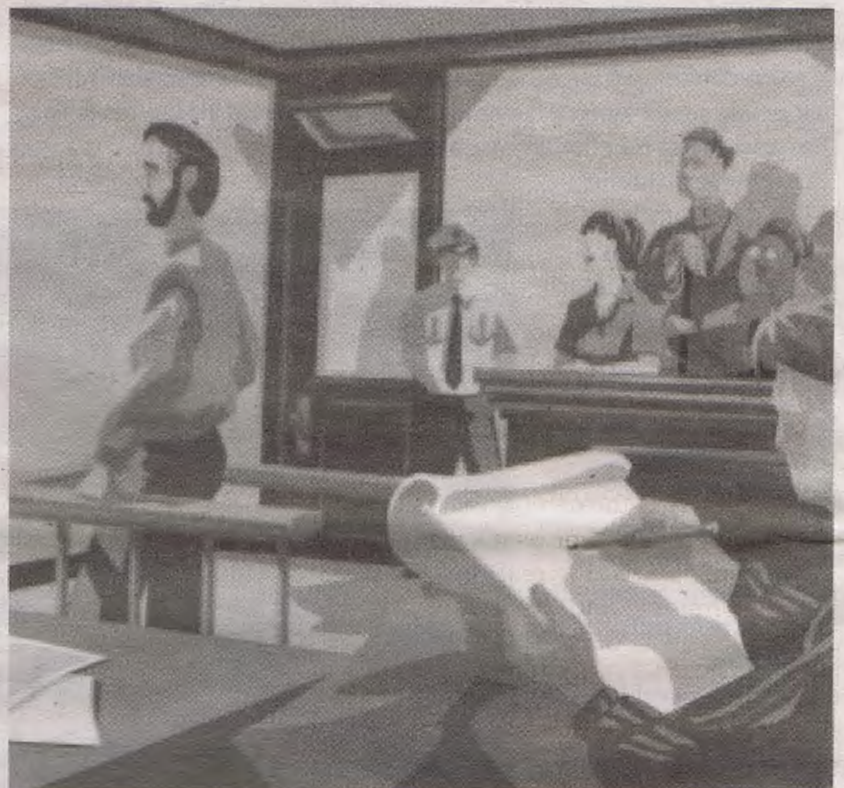
"The only enforcement is for a citizen who's affected to file a lawsuit in court. It's the only choice the law allows." - David Taylor

been focused on the board's dealing since it arrived at what legal documents refer to as an "amicable separation agreement" with former superintendent Howard Colter.

In a recent interview, Taylor said the board has only one documented meeting concerning Colter's separation. This was June 15, he said, and he maintains the decision could not have been made that easily.

"I served on the board for 12 years; I know how those kinds of things happen," Taylor said.

*"We didn't do anything wrong."
- Henry Brackett*



Taylor said he is taking the issue into his own hands because he believes that is the only option left.

"There is only one enforcement mechanism, only one thing you can do if people are violating that law," he said. "The police aren't going to come, the district attorney's not going to do it, we've contacted the attorney general, he wasn't willing to do anything ... the only enforcement is for a citizen who's affected to file a lawsuit in court. It's the only choice the law allows."

Reached at his home on October 18, Brackett said the board did not violate any laws. "We didn't do anything wrong," he said. Asked for what he thinks the outcome of the case should be, he said, "We should win."

Taylor said he is looking for three things to happen as a result of the lawsuit. He said he wants to understand what happened around the separation agreement "in the equivalent of minutes"; greater regulation of the board; and the legal fees he's incurred for this paid on his behalf.

"Its cost me at this point probably close to four or five thousand dollars out of pocket, and I want them to pay for that," he said. "I shouldn't have to pay that kind of money to get access to documents that should have been there on the website anyway."





Alex Harling
Editor-In-Chief

A TOUCHY SUBJECT

The lights are low and the music is loud. The air is warm though the night is cold. A hundred or so Oyster River High School students crowd into the multipurpose room. From a distance it looks like a huge mosh of kids. A closer look will reveal what is really going on inside this crowd.

"Grinding," a type of provocative dancing, has been an issue brought up many times by teachers and parents but never really been fully addressed. This issue is raising more concern and attracting more attention.

There are different opinions on the subject and no conclusion has been made on how to handle the dancing. Some of the concerns about the dancing is that people chaperoning feel very uncomfortable having to watch the certain students participate in that behavior as well what might be happening to students who are in the middle of the large crowd of kids and are out of sight from the careful watch of the chaperones. "For us it's just normal dancing; nothing really more," said Sophomore Sandra Stroger. "The teachers just take it to a whole new level." The faculty wants to make sure everyone who is going to the dance, students and faculty, feels comfortable and won't be put in a situation that would jeopardize that. "If a student can't handle that kind of situation," Junior Allie Harris said. "They shouldn't come to a dance."

Back in March 2009, Exeter High School canceled one of its dances due to controversy of the way students were dancing. Exeter High School raised similar issues to the one

"For us it's just normal dancing; nothing really more."

our school has brought up. The dancing at EHS was considered inappropriate and was making chaperones uncomfortable. These are identical to the issues Oyster River High School is currently facing. Back in 2006, Concord High School had the same issue. Some students who had been seen inappropriately dancing were asked to leave. An estimated 150 students walked out to protest the administration's decision of kicking the kids out. "I would definitely call the dancing provocative, but there are chaperones for



Emerson MacLean's Interpretation of Grinding

a reason." Junior Becca Hoff said. "If a couple gets really out of control, the chaperone can step in. Other than that it's just a way of having fun that we don't get to do too often."

Canceled all future dances or adding strict rules would most likely result in less attendance and would create a fundraising problem for the school. Pranav Nanda said, "Homecoming this year alone made over a thousand dollars." If the dances were canceled, the money would have to be acquired through other fundraising, or what would most likely happen, taken from the school's already tight budget.

As of now, the faculty is looking for alternatives for people to participate in to avoid anything that makes them uncomfortable. "In the multipurpose room there isn't very much room for students to spread out and avoid anything they don't want to see," Mr. Allen said. "We just want to accommodate everyone." Holding the dances in cafeteria is an option, although people are not very keen on the amount of work it takes to move the tables and chairs, he said. If holding the dances in the cafeteria is all it takes to distinguish the issue, the manual labor seems well worth it, according to Mr. Allen.

A staff meeting was held to discuss the issues being raised. No immediate action has been decided on but everyone in attendance at the meeting now understands the concerns that have been raised. A meeting between the school sen-

ate and our principle Mr. Allen was held as well.

As of now, it would appear that some action will be taken by

"If a student can't handle that kind of situation they shouldn't come to a dance."

the administration, maybe even before the Halloween dance. The popular student opinion currently is to not make any changes and keep the status quo. "I am always able to tell my friends from different schools how much fun our high schools dances are and it would be a real let down if they changed anything." Sarah Huston said, "I definitely look forward to the next one; hopefully nothing will change from the last dance."



MEETING MR. PARKER



Jenny Taylor
News Writer

"The appeal of working in a community based environment with junior high and elementary schools, as well as a strong academic and athletic expectation from the administration was something appealing to get involved with," says Mr. Parker, our new Athletic Director.

A Bedford native, Mr. Parker was Athletic Director in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the past eight years after graduating from college there. Anxious to return home with his family, he said "an opportunity to move back home and raise my family here was one I jumped on."

With his exciting return home, Parker brought a clear set of goals for the Athletic Department:

"My goals are to continue the traditions of Oyster River athletics and really to develop a culture that the community, faculty, and administration are proud of the student athlete," he said. "And that embodies more than just winning on a sports field, or rink, or court, it's about just constantly displaying the proper sportsmanship and really just being a quality person when you're representing Oyster River."

During a recent interview at a soccer game, Mr. Parker elaborated on his goals, specifically his longterm goal of establishing "myself in the school district for a long time. Really get to know everyone and become someone that the community knows as the athletic director."

Mr. Parker shared a promising outlook for the future of the athletic department, and the rest of our school as well. "The ultimate goal every year is to create a sports environment for kids so that they can learn life lessons through extra curriculas to re-establish the overall mission of graduating from high school and being ready to be an adult in the real world," he said.

Mr. Parker said he plans to not only get involved with athletics but help other departments where needed.

"The important characteristic to have is to really be a team player and get involved where ever you're needed," he said.

"In athletics that could mean cutting the grass before a game, that could mean helping Mr. McCann or Mr. Allen with anything in the main office, or helping with supervision-type things in the cafeteria. So I think the most important thing in any field is being a team player and really getting involved in all capacities, because it really shows your value to that organization."



Mr. Parker, the new Athletic Director, standing outside his office.

"My goals are to continue the traditions of Oyster River athletics and really to develop a culture that the community, faculty, and administration are proud of the student athlete."

A "SUPER" BIG TASK

To try to get the school district back on track the School Board hired Leon Levesque as interim superintendent.

Mr. Levesque has worked in education for 38 years. "I started as a teacher at a high school, I was an assistant principal at the high school, the principal at the high school, assistant

superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and a superintendent for 17 years," he said.

On the job until June, Mr. Levesque concedes he has a lot on his plate, but he says he has a clear plan to accomplish it.

"I've already conducted four community forums, we called it a listening tour, where I went to each of the schools and invited the parents and community to come to meet

me and address essentially three questions: one, what do they value about Oyster River, what would they like to keep? Question number two, what additional information would they like to receive or what would they like to change? And the third part is what advice do they have for me."

By now the challenges facing Mr. Levesque are fairly well known. For one there was the "walk out" protesting the change of principal, and Mr. Levesque said he has kept this and other things in mind.

"The challenges right now for the district involve building community trust, finding common ground and learning to have some difficult conversations in a civil manner, and coming to grips with some difficult budgetary decisions that are gonna have to be made for that district," he said. "In truth it's probably the latter part is no different than other districts according to right now, these

"The challenges right now for the district involve building community trust, finding common ground and learning to have some difficult conversations in a civil manner."

are difficult financial times for all districts. I would like to have the school system in a better place when I leave, I'd like to have a school system that has a clear direction where it's going, and has its organizational structure that will allow my successor or whoever is selected to be the permanent superintendent to be successful."



Mr. Leon Levesque/Courtesy



GO GREEN OR GO HOME!



Emerson Maclean
Christian Sbrilli

Wait! Don't just throw away that used cooking oil! Why you may ask? Because one man's trash is another man's fuel...Yes, but what kind of vehicle could possibly run off the grease that someone just deep-fried some tasty treats in? What could this magical vehicle be? Could it be a Spaceship? A UFO? A Big Green Bus? If you guessed a Big Green Bus, you are correct!

The Big Green Bus (B.G.B.) is a student run organization which originated at Dartmouth College. However, there is more to the name than what meets the eye. Their mission is to help create a future that sustains people, the environment, and the economy. They promote awareness and enthusiasm for sustainability through the sharing of information and innovation.

The Bus itself is quite unique. It is an old greyhound bus that has gone through some serious interior and exterior design to make the bus more environmentally friendly. To provide the electricity of the bus, the Roof is equipped with solar panels which is connected to a 4,000 watt xantrex XW series inverter which powers all on-board appliances. Along with the environmentally friendly electricity, the bus's interior uses sustainably harvested ply wood floors as well as bamboo countertops.

Essentially this bus travels around America spreading environmental awareness. One of the main focuses of the bus is it's fuel. The Big Green Bus runs off of biodiesel, or as the the B.G.B crew likes to call it, "veg." "I am a biodiesel-head," says Dartmouth sophomore Morgan Kurtis. Morgan loves the Big Green Bus and everything it stands for. According to Morgan and many of the members of the B.G.B crew, Biodiesel seems to be the way to go. Biodiesel or "veg" is essentially just vegetable oil that undergoes some slight chemical altering.



The Big Green Bus arrives and sets up.

Bio-diesel can be used in any diesel engine. She hopes all of Durham is as excited about protecting the environment as she is "We would love for Durham to get excited about biodiesel." She is so devoted to the B.G.B that she was part of the crew that spent last summer entirely in a bus. Last summer the Big Green Bus travelled 12,000 miles, through 33 states, and attended 66 public events. The bus met thousands of people, who inspired, motivated and excited the B.G.B crew about their enthusiasm for their cause.

The B.G.B. event also had live entertainment. The music was provided by the Oyster River Middle School jazz band. The stored energy generated by the bus was used power the band giving them a very "earthy sound."

Erik Skarin, a Dartmouth Sophomore and B.G.B advocate, proudly displayed his utmost passion for the environment through both his attitude and his apparel. Many bystanders were not only drawn towards the bus, but also to the magnificent medallion that dangled from Erik's neck.



A jolly Eric Skarin pumps "veg" into the Big Green Bus.

The medallion read: "Change your fuel, change the world".



Left: Middle School band diligently performs in front of Durham Marketplace.



WILL OUR SENIORS BE VOTING?



Emerson MacLean
Co-Editor of News

Voting plays a key role in shaping our country. Whether it is on a local, state, or national level, the right to vote allows every American citizen to let their voice be heard. Of course, to be eligible to vote you must be at least 18. This pivotal age comes for most near the end of their senior year.

The presidential primary is coming soon and with it, a whole new set of voters. At such a young age, do these seniors even care about voting? And if so, are they ready for that kind of responsibility?

Matt Fenerty is an ORHS senior. He will turn 18 at the end of the month on October 30. Fenerty strongly believes in the right to vote, and he's going to vote the first chance he gets.

"Voting is very important!" said Fenerty. "Our ancestors fought for freedoms including the right to vote. I think it's disrespectful not to use the freedoms they earned for our country."

Fenerty is planning to vote for Rick Perry, R-Texas. "We share a lot of the same political views plus he has experience as the governor of Texas," he said.

Senior Ben Bakman recently turned 18 on October 1. Unlike Fenerty, Bakman is still unsure whether he will vote or not during

the upcoming primary.

"I think many seniors besides me are having a tough time with that topic," he said. "Everyone has enough on their minds with college applications and all to worry about the primary."

However, Bakman has put some thought into the subject. "If I vote, it will be for Obama because I think he should get more time to finish what he started his first term," he said.



DRAMA DEPT GEARING UP FOR FALL PLAY



Logan Miller
Op-Ed

"I was just hoping for any part, because in an Oscar Wilde play, any part is just so good in itself," says sophomore Nathaniel Spence, on being in the Oyster River High School drama departments fall production this year. Spence will be playing Algernon Moncrieff, one of the lead roles in the upcoming performances of *The Importance Of Being Earnest*. The play is a satirical take on high society written by playwright Oscar Wilde in 1895.

Wilde once described it as "a trivial comedy for serious people."

The play is being directed by both Meredith Freeman-Caple as well

"It's basically making fun of high society in a very satirical way"

The comedy in the play is meant to be satirical, ironic, and witty. "She's very proper and kind of snooty, and very focused on what the public thinks of her," says Taylor on her snobby character Lady Fairfax. Fairfax is one of the egotistical main characters that the play focuses around.

The other characters that the plot focuses itself around are generally pretentious, high class members of society. "It's not the typical play that's put on here. It's basically making fun of high society in a very satirical way," says Taylor.

The play will be in the ORHS auditorium on November 17, 18, and 19. "Opening night is always such a thrill, you get such a rush from that," says Spence. The play is \$5 for students, and \$8 for adults. "If you want a night full of laughter, you should definitely go," says director Caple.



Mrs. Caple reads along as students rehearse



BEES KNEES



Chad Burns
Features Writer

"Many people are afraid of bees because they don't understand them" explained Señor Hausmann. Señor was introduced to bee keeping during his work in the Peace Corps in Paraguay. For two years in the Corps, Señor took on the role of 'Keeper of the Bees', and ever since, he has been hooked. "Bees are a community of 50,000 and are absolutely awesome at solving problems" Señor enthusiastically explained. For Señor, the coolest thing about Bees is their unique ability to work together as a hive to get things done. "All they think about is the future." He observes that bees always make decisions to better the hive as a whole in the future, and they will almost never do something that will make the hive suffer.



Above: Local bee enthusiast Thomas Hausmann, checks his hives for his liquid gold.

When first learning the ways of 'Bee Keeper', Señor highlights that you make many mistakes at first, but these are all a part of the leaning process. "I've killed queens, put hives in wrong places, but as you are doing it, you are leaning from your mistakes." Señor also says that the common misconception that if you kill the queen bee, than the whole hive dies is completely untrue. "If the queen dies, they just find a new one" details Señor.

Mr. Hausmann has many reasons for housing 100,000 bees in his backyard, and one of them is that he simply likes what he gets from it. "If you treat the bees well, then you get honey, if you treat them poorly, then you get nothing." Mr. Hausmann says that he loves honey, and "I like the idea that I am self sufficient in two things: garlic and honey." The honey that Señor profits from the hives, he either saves for his family, gives away, or sells it to select people. One person that Señor refuses to sell to is Mr. Lord. It is not because Señor dislikes Mr. Lord, but simply that Mr. Lord doesn't like bees, so he cannot benefit off of the fruits of their labors. Mr. Hausmann finds humor in sending Mr. Lord videos of thousands of bees swarming his hives. In reply Mr. Lord tells Señor that he needs to buy a can of Raid for his problem.

"I've killed queens, put hives in wrong places, but as you are doing it, you are leaning from your mistakes."



Above: Mr. Hausmann's precious bees, hard at work to create some delicious honey

Many people find the presence of bees quite disturbing, but if you are like Mr. Hausmann and you understand them, they can be quite calming. About once every two weeks, Señor makes the trip out to his hive. Armed with a pair of thin surgical gloves and a special bee protecting veil, Señor watches, observes, and cherishes the company of his bees.



CHILLIN' WITH CHILI



Christian Sbrilli

"I have never been so glad to have the roof of my mouth burnt," says Portsmouth Christian Academy Senior, Ty Ueda. Ueda was one of the thousands who flocked to Prescott Park on October 8th, paid 15 dollars for their "all you can eat" chili ticket, and proceeded to eat way too much chili.

Every year since 1989, the radio station, 100.3 fm WHEB has hosted a chili cook-off at Prescott Park in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. This chili cook-off is a chance for local chili producers to strut their stuff and get some well-deserved publicity. At the end of the festival, the chili consumers and elected chili judges place their votes on who made the best chili.

The annual Chili Cook-off gathered 17 restaurants competing for the best chili, compared to an average of 13 restaurants in years past. Some of the restaurants that participated in the event included: Dolphin Striker, Dos Amigos Burritos, The Old Salt Eating & Drinking place, The 106 Kitchen & Bar, Lexies Joint, and a dozen others.

The 80 degree autumn day brought hundreds of both tourist and local chili connoisseurs. Each one having their own definition of the "perfect" chili. "My favorite part about chili is the beans," declared Portsmouth High School Senior Robert Yevdokimov. Although the weather for the event was grand, it steered some avid chili lovers away. "I usually reserve eating chili for chilly days, so I did not care to attend this event," said Oyster River Senior Nicholas Chiodo.

Just as the weather and the chili were hot, so was the competition. The winner of the 2010 chili cook-off, last year, was the 106 Kitchen & Bar. Lexie's Joint came in for a close second and The Old Salt Eating & Drinking Place came in for a distant third place. This year, at the 2011 Chili cook-off the 106 Kitchen & Bar's Morrison lamb chili took first place, while the Dolphin Striker's pulled pork chili came in second place, and Dos Amigos Burritos' spicy pork tenderloin and beef chili came in third place. The 106 Kitchen & Bar has had exceptional chili 2 years in a row, thus making them some form of Chili King.

The annual WHEB chili cook-off is definitely worth attending whether or not you are a fan of chili. For those who do not enjoy a bowl of chili, the Chili festival this year offered a few other options. Outside the chili ring, there was basket making, sheep sheering, quilting, and other old fashioned fun. "If there is one thing I love more than chili, it is a quality live sheep sheering session" said Oyster River graduate and University of New Hampshire Sophomore, Benjamin Rodgers. On top of everything else, the band Ballymac gave the chili cook-off a quality Ye Olde Irish sound track which was enjoyed thoroughly by all.

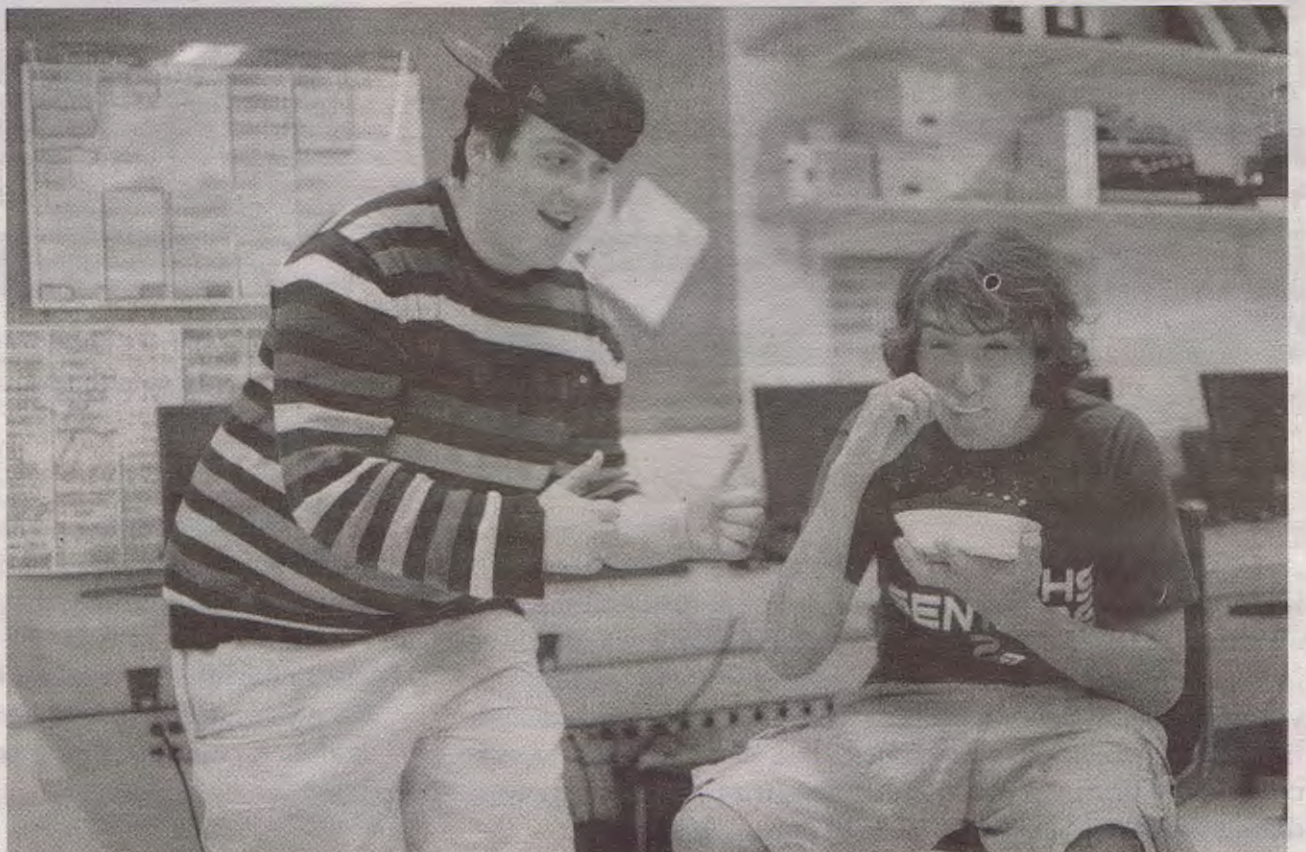
We shall all await anxiously for the 23rd annual WHEB chili cook-off which will be held in 2012.

"This chili cook-off is a chance for local chili producers to strut their stuff."



"I usually reserve eating chili for chilly days..." - Nicholas Chiodo

Below: Local Students, Nicholas Chiodo and Emerson Maclean, encourage chili eating during class.





Billy Sturtevant

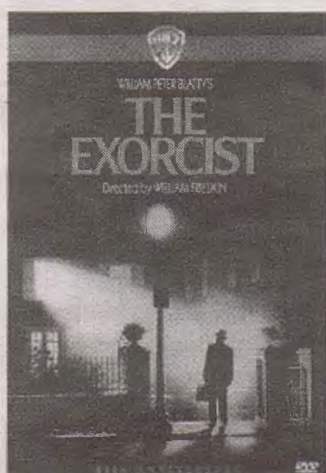
Features

MOVIES TO KILL

Every Halloween should be a scary one. So grab your sweetheart and popcorn and enjoy these five classic movies. Each one guarantees a good chill up anyone's freshly ripped spine.

STAIRWAY TO HELL: THE EXORCIST (1973)

An innocent girl is possessed by demon(s)/ the devil and it's up to two priests and one hell of a scripture to save this girl.



You know those movies with little to no mystery or everything is cleared up and answered for your sake? That is not this movie. You know those demon movies you watch for fun? That is not this movie either. The special effects are mind blowing, the acting is top notch and, Regina is the scariest little girl in existence. It is too bad the sequels don't live up to this art. A must see.

A LULLABY OF LOSS: THE ORPHANAGE (2007)

A mother returns to reopen an abandoned orphanage that she once lived in. Shortly after she gets there, her son disappears and it seems her childhood friends are playing a final game with her.

Wonderfully dark and fantastically magical, you can feel the unearthly nature from the children. The leading actress portrays a very emotional and engaging mother character. This movie manages to catch you off guard and leaves a lasting impression. Highly recommended.



BEST FRIENDS TILL SUN DO US PART: LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (2008)

Lonely Osker meets mysterious Elie and the two form a disturbing/questionable friendship.

Move aside Edward and listen up vampire lovers, here is the closest thing we have to an original vampire story. And it's actually quite good. I would say the characters really make this movie strong and oddly enough, even the undead seem human and believable. This is both unpredictable and violent while being touching; this is not your typical movie.



SHOOTING SPREE: DAWN OF THE DEAD (1978)

When a zombie outbreak tears apart the world, four survivors take refuge inside a shopping mall - only to realize that the zombies aren't the only problem.

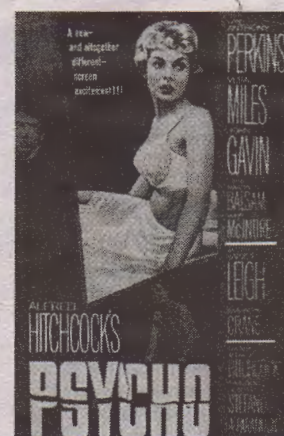
See the original version because it's better than the 2004 remake. At the time zombie movies were not a popular idea and their marketing next to nothing. This landmark film not only shows humanity at its best and worst but also the 'zombie-ism' of the market and consumerism. A cult classic, if you are a fan of zombie films then this is a must see.



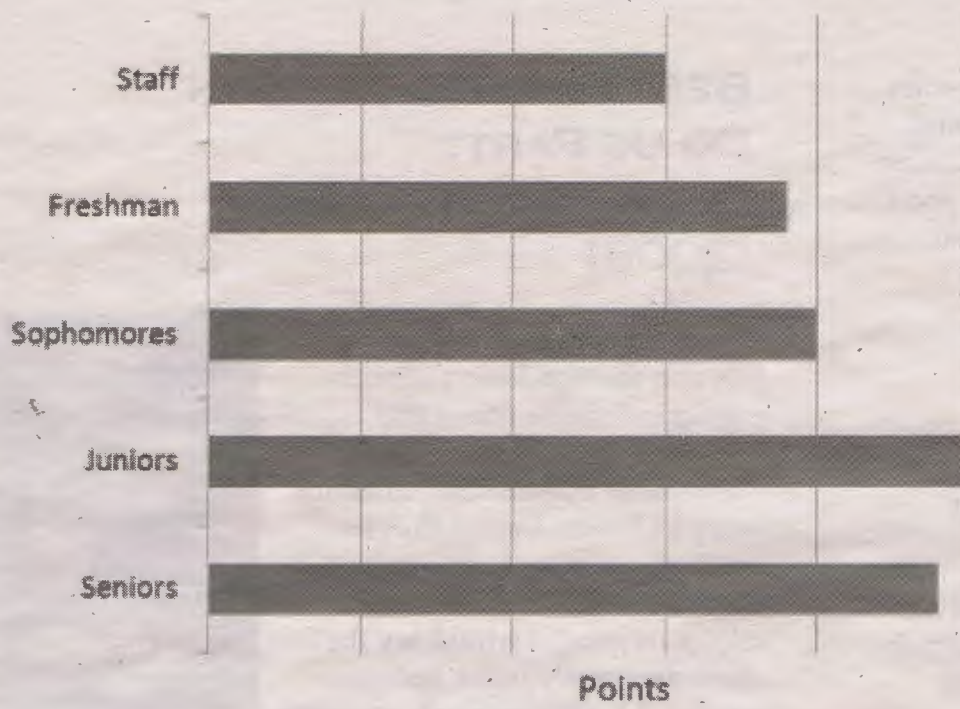
THE MOTHER OF SLASHERS: PSYCHO (1960)

A woman sees her big opportunity and takes it, as well as her boss's money. But before she can get away a storm forces her to pull over and spend the night at a cheap motel.

Anyone who hasn't seen this movie and loves movies must see it. It's the Citizen Kane of horror movies with some truly suspenseful scenes and it's the movie that started the 'twist' ending to horror movies. The acting is well done, the script is well-paced, and the camera shots are famous. If anyone has the time to see the strange mother of horror movies they should, but not before burning the 1990's remake atrocity.



SPRIT WEEK



Juniors come out on top for the first time in years.



Mr. Oxnard goes for the ball. Seniors win world cup.



A disappointed Nick Diveglia is knocked out early on. Sophomores win knockout.





Cody Kondratenko celebrates a buzzer touchdown. Juniors take football.



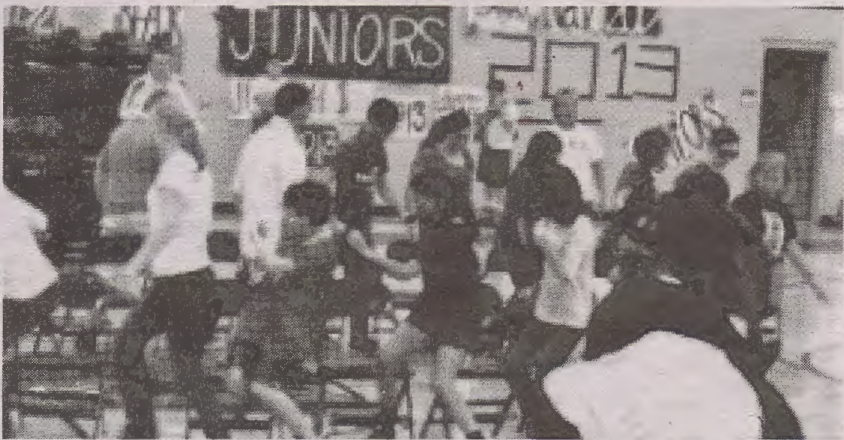
Ali Stuart gives it her all in Run Around Tennis. Sophomores win.



Shauna Bulger wins limbo for the Juniors.



Seniors charge the floor after a big victory in Musical Chairs.



Tension builds in the competitors as Musical Chairs heats up.





Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

TRICK OR TREAT

October 31st. Halloween. Witches, pumpkins, bats, and haunted houses are a few things that come to mind when one thinks about this date. The 31st of October has a variety of meanings for high school students: some enjoy going from door-to-door begging for candy from strangers, others hold costume parties in their homes to entertain friends, and several carve faces or symbols on pumpkins to make jack-o'-lanterns.

As teenagers reach high school, they typically begin to have different ideas on what to do on Halloween. Many students continue trick-or-treating throughout middle school, only to be faced with the life-changing decision on whether to continue this excursion for free candy or not. Others stop at some point within middle school, and a few continue trick-or-treating throughout college—or even afterward.

To see what members of our high school has to say on the topics of trick-or-treating, costumes, and what to do on Halloween, a small survey was conducted by Mouth of the River. 80 teenagers, 40 of each gender and 20 from each grade, shared their most personal and intimate thoughts on this holiday. A majority cried while doing so. Several laughed, then began crying and didn't stop for hours. Seventeen students had nervous breakdowns and had to be taken into individual quiet rooms for extended periods of time. Here are the results.

WHAT IS THE BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME?

"Bubble gum; a refrigerator box, painted pink, with aluminum foil for gum sticks."
—Leah Goelzer, sophomore.

"Something with intense, original makeup."
—Lydia Beller-Mckenna, junior.

"A cereal killer, with knives inside the cereal boxes."
—Jamie Miller, junior.

"Pinning purple balloons to yourself and being a grape."
—Cat Davis, senior.

"A Tardis." —John Meredith, junior.

"Something creative that no one's thought of before."
—Isabelle Banker, freshman.

"Frank 'N' Furter, from the Rocky Horror Picture Show."
—Riley Batchelder, junior.

"A hot dog." —Shelby Shepherd-Beane, freshman.

"Whatever I'm wearing." —Sam Lewis, junior.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."
—Claire McCarthy and Eliza Balch, sophomores.

"Something homemade."
—Sophie Webb and Sydney Snelling, freshmen.

"Swine flu." —Erica Swanson, senior.

"A nurse. (It was me.)" —Alex Eustace, sophomore.

"The classic ghost, with a white sheet." —Zander Hobbs, junior.

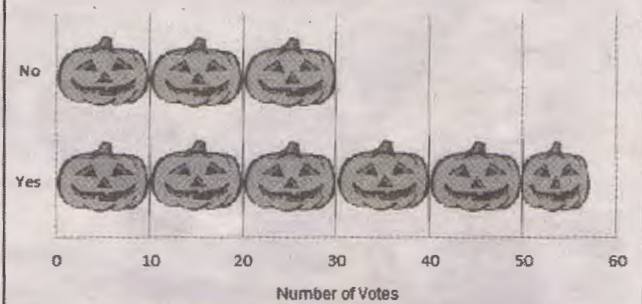
"John Camp." —Owen Allen, senior.

"Owen Allen." —John Camp, senior.

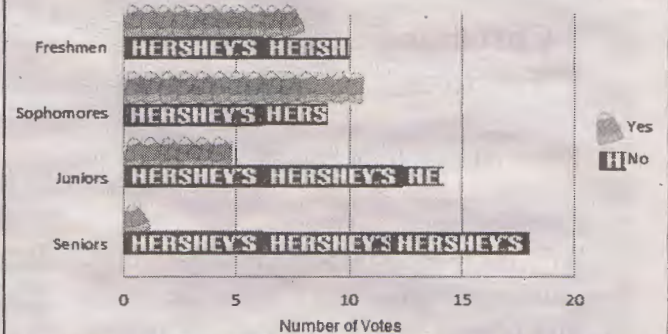
"Owen Allen." —Naomi Schmidt, senior.

"[Cross-dressing costumes.] I dressed as a girl one year, and the lady actually thought I was a girl, so when I told her I was a guy I got extra candy." —Matt Segil, sophomore.

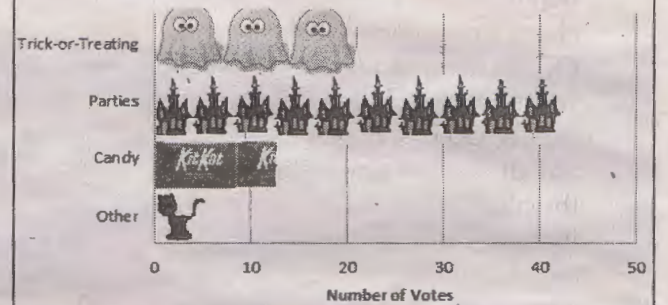
Is it okay for highschoolers to go trick-or-treating?



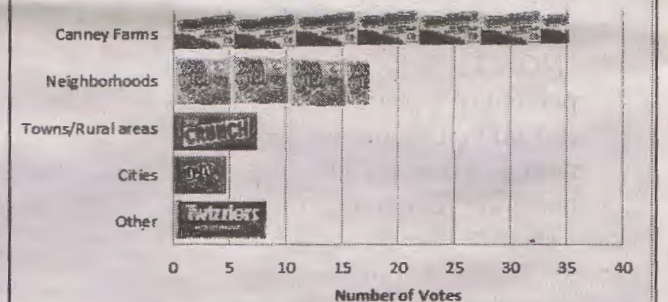
Are you going trick-or-treating this year?



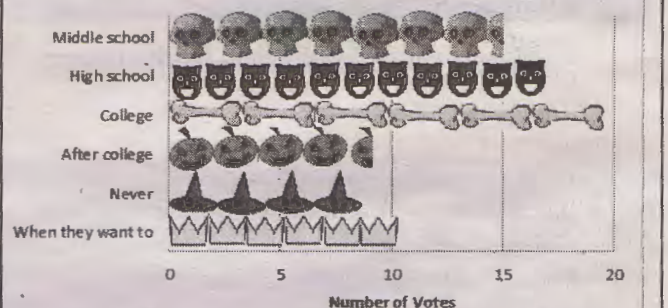
Do you prefer trick-or-treating, going to Halloween parties, or handing out candy?



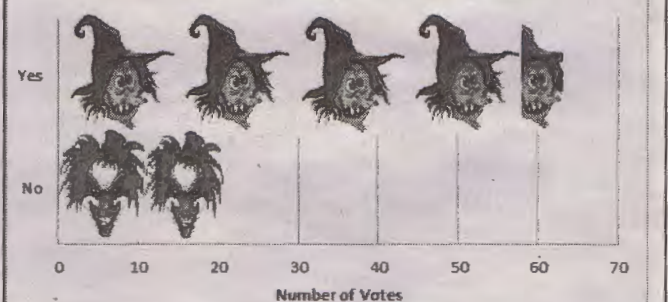
Where is the best place to go trick-or-treating?



When should people stop trick-or-treating?



Can trick-or-treating be dangerous?



LOCAL YOUTHS EXPRESS ENJOYMENT FOR RIPE BANANAS



Christian Sbrilli
Features Writer

"You have to have a banana every day, gotta get your potassium," says Oyster River High School teacher Lou Mroz, and how right he is. It seems that everyone is going bananas these days. Could it be because bananas are "hip" with the kids these days? Could it be that bananas are a valuable source of vitamins? It seems as though this is yet another one of life's great mysteries, and shall go unanswered.

Although we aren't exactly sure why people are eating the bananas, the fact of the matter is, they are. A recent scientific study was conducted at Oyster River High School that asked 180 people, both students and faculty, how ripe they like to eat their bananas. The classic banana farmer's ripeness chart (shown below) was used to help guide the subjects in their important decision. The banana ripeness chart gauged bananas on a 1 to 7 scale, 1 being the least ripe (green) and 7 being overly ripe (yellow with brown spots).

Some, when faced with the decision, answered eagerly, giving their opinions on all of the options. "Number 7 is banana bread material!" said Oyster River junior Frankie Mullin. "Anyone who chose a number 1 is clearly a jokester!" exclaimed an anonymous Oyster River student. Almost everyone who took the survey was a self proclaimed banana expert. Others, however, did not show the same signs of enthusiasm. "I refuse to take part in your 'Banana Challenge'," said Oyster River High School teacher and banana skeptic John Morin. Others had the audacity to flat out say "I do not like bananas." All 9 of the "NON-EATERS" made up 5 percent of the surveyed people. Actually, it seems as though not everyone at Oyster River has gone "bananas."

Despite everything, Oyster Rivers "Banan-O-Graph" clearly showed that most students preferred their banana at a number 6. Their choice was a banana that was ripe...yet not too ripe...The banana experts who ran this study were shocked by the data. They were convinced that the people who chose 6 were pressured into it by a vicious chain reaction of high school peer pressure. However, the graph is all we have, so we should not question the motives of the banana voters. Famous writer, historic icon, and ripe fruit lover George Pettie, backs up the data with his quote from his famous book, *Petite Pallace*, "Fruite whiche is not ripe, will scarce with strength bee torne from the tree, whereas that which is ripe falleth easily of its owne accord." It is fairly safe to say that George Pettie is a natural snack advocate, as well as 95% of Oyster River High school.

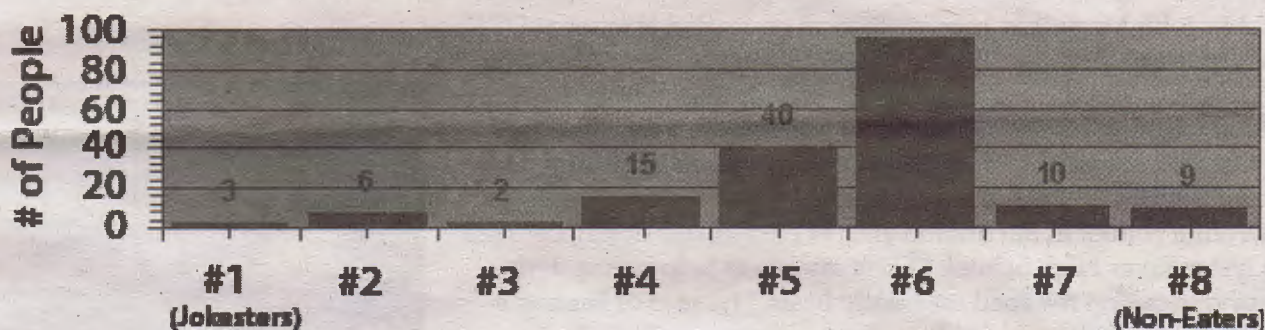
Bananas come in many shapes and sizes, but when it comes down to it, a good banana is in the eye of the beholder.

"You have to have a banana every day, gotta get your potassium," - Lou Mroz

Fun Banana facts! (from around the Web)

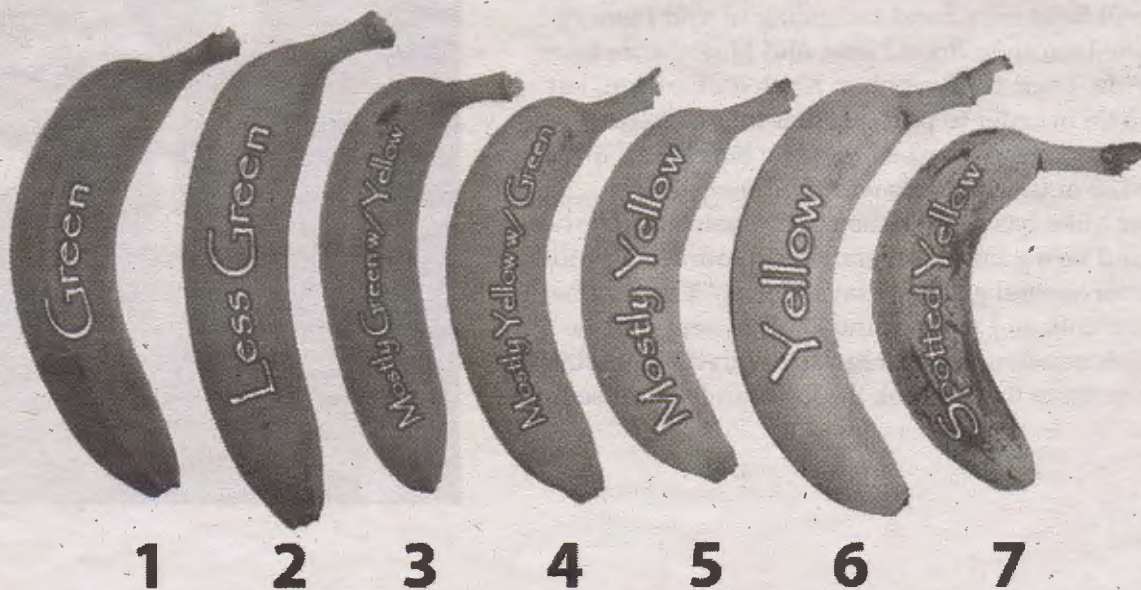
- There are more than 500 varieties of banana in the world.
- In 2001, there were more than 300 banana-related accidents in Britain, most involving people slipping on skins.
- In Eastern Africa you can buy banana beer. This beer is brewed from bananas.
- A cluster of bananas is called a hand and consists of 10 to 20 bananas, which are known as fingers.
- The word 'banan' is Arabic for finger.
- The banana plant reaches its full height of 15 to 30 feet in about one year.
- As bananas ripen, the starch in the fruit turns to sugar. Therefore, the riper the banana the sweeter it will taste.
- Bananas are perennial crops that are grown and harvested year-round.
- India is by far the largest world producer of bananas, growing 16.5 million tons per year
- The phrase 'going bananas' was first recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary, and is linked to the fruit's 'comic' connections with monkeys.

Oyster River's Banan-O-Graph



Specific Banana Chosen by Individuals

"I refuse to take part in your 'Banana Challenge.'" - John Morin



DAILY DOSE OF MORIN



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

You're slouching down the school hallways, sneering at the brightly colored posters which cheerfully advertise when after-school clubs meet. You wonder: *who cares about that stuff right now?* Certainly not you. Today sucks. Everything seems gray, sad, and dark...like your soul. And it's not even C period yet. You're beginning to contemplate just heading to the nurse's office and calling it a day when, suddenly, a bright beacon of light shines from down the hallway. Gingerly shielding your eyes with one arm, you approach this strange, almost blinding glow, and realize that it's in the shape of an outstretched palm. You cautiously raise your own hand to meet it, and with a resounding slap the two hands collide in the unmistakable gesture of a high-five.

"HOW'S IT GOING?" booms the voice of an angel. Your heart lifts at the distinctly optimistic tone, and happiness slowly returns to the world. Through your lifting cloud of sadness, you catch a glint of smiling white teeth.

No, you think, it can't be...
Is it...?
It is.

Mr. John Morin has been a physical education teacher at ORHS for at least a decade. "Eleven years?" he speculates, furrowing his brow. "Maybe twelve. A long time, anyway." In fact, Morin's total teaching career has lasted no less than 15 years, and he's educated students in a variety of environments, including New Canaan Middle School in New Canaan, Connecticut, Benson's Driving School in Barrington and, of course, our dearly beloved Oyster River High School. "I risk my life to help youngsters survive out on the road on a daily basis," he says of Benson's Driving School.

Not only is Mr. Morin a fearsome wielder of both Driver's Education and PE knowledge, he's also a family man. "I have three kids, all girls, ages four, six, and eight," Morin explains cheerfully. "Molly is the oldest, Riley's in the middle, and Lindsey is the youngest. We're not Irish," he adds quickly. "[My wife and I] just liked the names."

MORIN...AND THE BACKSTREET BOYS???

It's not something most students know. In fact, it's not normally something Mr. Morin usually talks about, because according to him, "People sometimes make fun of me because of who the band was."

But yes, it's true: our gym teacher has gone touring with the Backstreet Boys.

The Backstreet Boys are a band consisting of four men: AJ McLean, Howie Dorough, Brian Little, and Nick Carter from Orlando, Florida. Their fifth member, Keith Richardson, left the group in 2006 in order to pursue other interests. They were formed in 1993 and are the best-selling boy band of all time, having sold over 130 million records worldwide.

"My brother Mike has been in the music business since he was very young, and he's gone on several world tours as a production manager for several groups," says Morin. "The summer I graduated from college-I was around 23 to 24 years old-he offered me a job traveling around Europe with the Backstreet Boys." Morin stresses that he took the job mainly because it was

an opportunity to see what his brother did for a career, and not so much for the experience of meeting the Backstreet Boys. "It was fun, though!"

Despite having lived the good life on tour, Mr. Morin realized that his heart was only *truly* drawn to one thing: teaching. "I left the tour early to start my first teaching job in New Canaan, Connecticut and taught [there] for four years," remembers Morin. "Then I came to Oyster River...and this is my 11th or 12th year here!"

He smiles. "I do love being [at ORHS]; the school's a wonderful place to learn, I feel like every teacher has something to offer, and I enjoy what I do." He pauses momentarily, and then adds, "I hope other people do, too."

"The summer I graduated from college-I was around 23 to 24 years old-[my brother] offered me a job traveling around Europe with the Backstreet Boys."



THE [BACKSTAGE TECH CREW] TOURING EXPERIENCE...

- **The tour.** "The tour started in Manchester, England, and went through several countries in Europe," recalls Morin. "I spent about 2½ months with my brother [Mike] and the [Backstreet Boys] crew, which was about 12 other guys who worked backstage – riggers, light people, sound people. I was the lowest-paid employee in the crew – I earned about \$800 per week."
- **The schedule.** "It's not a lifestyle I'd be interested in," Morin claims. "We'd wake up on the tour bus, set up everything for the concert, do a couple things backstage during the performance, clean up afterward, and then sleep on the bus. Also, the audience was usually eight- to 15-year-old girls and their moms, screaming, screaming, crying, and screaming...Not a good thing."
- **The responsibilities.** "One of the things I was responsible for was the *marley*: rubber flooring that went on the stage with decorations all over and 'The Backstreet Boys' written on it. I had a crew of roadies that would help me tape it down so the band members wouldn't trip over it while they were performing and die."
- **The deadly forklift.** At the beginning of the show, the Backstreet Boys would go onstage to greet the crowd; then the lights would go off, and they'd run backstage and jump on a platform that was sitting on a forklift. "I'd pull them up as fast as I could, about two stories high – it was dark, so I had to try to make sure they didn't hit anything," says Morin. "Then they'd jump onto another platform that was about 30 feet up and pose, the lights came back on, the fans started screaming [with joy]...I could have killed them all at any minute [pulling up the forklift], though, which was somewhat stressful."
- **The Backstreet Boys.** "They were nice kids," Morin admits. Incidentally, ORHS's own physical education teacher has played table tennis and basketball against the Backstreet Boys. "It was one of my jobs, actually," says Morin. "See, we'd get [to the place where the concert was being held] early in the morning to set up, the Boys would show up around, say, 3pm for a 7pm show, and do their sound check, practice a bit, and then they were kind of stuck there until the performance because the fans were gathered outside. So we packed a small [basketball] hoop and [tennis] table into the bus wherever we went, and just did that to pass the time. I beat Nick Carter on a regular basis."

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The paper is alive and kicking. This is for all of you who thought the Mouth of the River was dead. I hope you all know you were wrong. I'm Alex Harling and I am the new editor in chief of the Mouth of the River. So far the school year may not feel that special or different, but a lot is happening. I feel it's important we highlight these milestones.

- 1) The homecoming dance of 2011 wasn't as sweaty as 2010's
- 2) Spirit week did in fact happen, although the tallies were not counted correctly and the juniors cheated.
- 3) There's been a surge of people on scooters in Durham.
- 4) Mouth of the River is an after school club. We would love to have you on our staff!
- 5) Michael Mandeville has traded in the old specs for contacts and is getting more girls than ever.
- 6) We have a new principal, Mr. Allen. Feel free to say hello to him; he's friendly.
- 7) The cafeteria is supposedly getting two large, wall mounted, flat screen televisions. Apparently they were ordered a month or so ago.

If you think the school year is boring and always the same old song and dance year after year, think again, because you're wrong. History is being made all around us; you just have to open your eyes.

Our school paper only has two returning members and no longer has the fantastic leadership of Mrs. Kucera. Thank goodness there are two new great advisors, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Krauss, to lead the way. Hopefully we can make it till the end of the year. The mission of the Mouth of the River Newspaper is to provide Oyster River High School students and staff with accurate and timely news of our school and community. Our staff researches stories with the utmost attention to facts as they are gathered and to the verification of facts to insure the highest integrity of our newspaper. We strive to stay relevant to our readers by inviting their input and feedback.



A NEW LOOK FOR LUNCH



Harry Slepian and her responsibilities cover

not only what will be served for lunch at the district's schools, but also the food in vending machines and the lunch serving procedure.

Although Tran has never held the position of Food Services Director before,

she is certainly experienced in the field, "I have been a licensed and Registered Dietitian for twelve years [and] I have worked in food service in the nursing home environment."

She also has a personal investment in the job, being the mother of two elementary age children in the Oyster River district, "and [understands] the importance of good nutrition for our youth's health

"The overall change, and main challenge for me, is to serve healthy foods that taste good." and readiness to learn."

way lunch is served "Reducing wait time is of high importance in other communities, and a priority of mine here at our high school."

She says, "I am very fortunate to have had the time before my position at Oyster River began, to visit other school districts in the state, to see what ideas I can bring back to our school district."



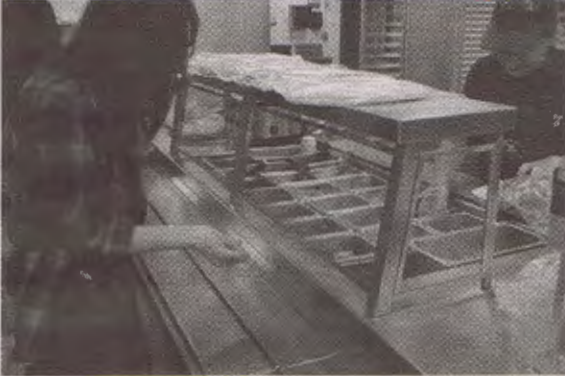
Pizza is always popular, even when old and sad.

salads, subs, snacks and drinks instead of waiting in the main serving area of the high school. "If the sales justify the cost of the additional staff

"I would like to expand the options for our students and staff who are vegetarians, or who just want a change."

member, this area may be allowed to become a permanent fixture." Says Tran.

The popular deli bar will remain a fixture, but with more options and possibly even a new look. Tran says she "would like to expand the options for our students and staff who



The ever enticing deli bar will remain.

Tran believes the most important adjustment to make is streamlining the

are vegetarians, or who just want a change." This would involve making hummus and black bean salad options more readily available and adding new sauces.

Although these adjustments will not change the cost of lunch, a new provision of Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, called the "Equity in School Lunch Pricing" provision will cause a slight increase. According to The New York Times article "Public Schools Face the Rising Costs of Serving Lunch," under this "school districts are required to start bringing their prices in line with what it costs to prepare the meals."

Schools will be required to serve more fruit, less whole milk, (New York Times) and make more food from scratch, increasing labor costs. Tran thinks that students shouldn't worry about the increase, "Consider the cost of a comparable hot meal out, that includes 3 oz. protein, a vegetable, 2 servings of grain, and a fruit...all for \$2.60."

Along with "the nutrient standards I am required to follow from the USDA, the cost of the meals, and labor used to produce them" Tran intends to work with students and staff to make the changes. "I am always willing to listen to feedback from students and staff on what they would like to see from the ORCSD lunch program."

Andrea Tran will be responsible for the vending machines as well.



Bosco sticks once again disappoint Christian Sbrilli.



MOR STAFF'S FAVORITE CAFETERIA FOODS



Kelsey-Pancakes, because I like pancakes.

Annika-I bring my own lunch because it's edible

Christian-I feel like Bosco Sticks have so much potential, I always think they'll be better than they were the last time, but they never are.

Logan-waffle fries

Emerson-Quesadillas. Compared to the other food they taste kind of real.

Sophie-I like the lunch I bring

Matt-Those yogurt and granola things. And once they had chicken parm subs, but they only had them once so I'm not sure.

Adelia-Wraps, because they're the only thing I've eaten from the cafeteria.

Katie-I like the deli bar because it reminds me of Subway



TO PLEDGE OR NOT TO PLEDGE?



Annika Barth
Op-Ed Writer

To pledge or not to pledge, that is a question students are faced with every day at school. I am among those who choose not to pledge allegiance. Some may consider this to be an unpatriotic, disloyal act; but what does it really mean to be patriotic and loyal and what does it mean to pledge my allegiance?

The definition of pledge is to "solemnly promise," and the definition of allegiance is "loyalty or devotion;" therefore, the way I see it, every time I stand and declare "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America..." means that I am blindly agree-

"the state-directed, teacher-led daily recitation in public schools of the amended 'under God' version of the Pledge of Allegiance... violates the Establishment Clause of the Constitution."

ing to stand by my country's every act, right or wrong. That seems to me to be antithetical to the process of critical, analytical assessment of one's government that is required to improve it. After all, how can we find - and fix - the flaws which we refuse to look for?

I read a quote by a fourth grader from Brookline, Mass, when asked what she thought about saying the pledge of allegiance, "I feel like I'm really actually an American." The notion that this child feels that she needs to take a loyalty oath to her government to be an American is disheartening. The constitution guarantees her the freedom of speech to speak out against unjust actions made by her country without being labeled as "un-American." The pledge contradicts those rights by forcing her to show loyalty and allegiance to ideas with which she may disagree.

Not only do I find the Pledge of Allegiance as defying our rights and principles as a nation, on a more personal level I find the line "one nation under God" to be offensive; it does not recognize the views of those

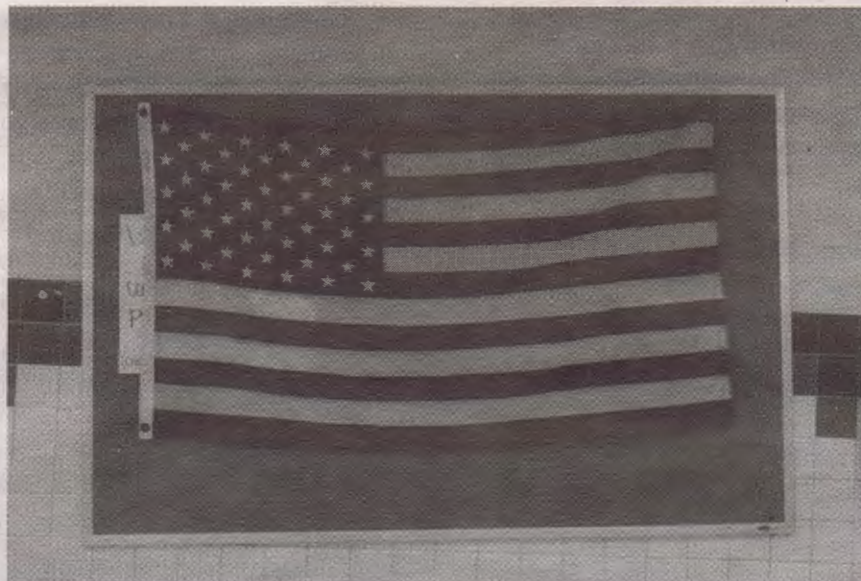
who do not believe in god, a minority group to which I belong. The phrase "under God" was introduced in the 1950s during the Cold War as a political statement defining democracy as a Christian ideal and communism as an atheistic one, an unfair statement to those citizens who were atheists and believed in democracy. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment guarantees that the government will not promote a

certain religious view. The line "under God", therefore, seems to be in violation of that guarantee by promoting the views of those who believe in God. Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote that "the state-directed, teacher-led daily recitation in public schools of the amended 'under God' version of the Pledge of Allegiance... violates the Establishment Clause of the Constitution." In 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the phrase "under God" showed unconstitutional

support of monotheism when recited in public schools.

Today it is optional for students to recite the pledge, and some argue that this is an important part of education because it allows students to respond in their own way and make their own decisions based on what they believe in and what they think is right. While that is a valid point, teachers should be respectful of their decision and recognize that it is in fact optional both to recite and to stand. I have been in several situations when the teacher commanded, "Everybody up," and when I did not rise was told to stand, which I think is unacceptable. In 1943 the Supreme Court ruled in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* that students are not required to recite the Pledge. They concluded that forcing a group of people to have the same opinion violated the First Amendment. Later the Court also decided that students should not be required to stand during the recitation of the Pledge.

On a final note, I would like to encourage my classmates to consider what it means not only to be a patriotic citizen but also a responsible citizen, which can be and is reflected in an action as seemingly simple as reciting a pledge. I would also encourage them to try and understand the meaning of our pledge, which may be stronger and much different than they'd originally understood it to be. I for one do not wish to salute or to stand for the Pledge. I would simply request that my teachers and peers with differing views respect that choice.



THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SENIOR YEAR



Harry Slepian
Op-ed writer

I feel like it might be a bit early to start talking about my experiences as a senior, but it's also interesting just how different the experience of being a senior is already, even just one month into it. There are certainly good and bad aspects of being a senior, but overall I'm just excited to move on to the next part of my life, before I do that though...

The good: Classes-

For the first time in high school I've been able to take entirely classes that interest me. Senior year is the only year with absolutely no required classes, which means that unless you've failed a class or otherwise missed it, there's no actual need to be in anything you aren't interested in.

Even though they're open to juniors, having a year's worth of required social studies meant that I didn't take sociology and philosophy last year. Having no required social studies finally freed up enough time for me to learn about the aspects of social studies that I find really fascinating. Science is an area in which I certainly do not excel, but I've had a much better time so far this year, because I've had the opportunity to take ones that are fun for me. My schedule wound up with both classes first semester. Normally I have a difficult time managing one class, but being in classes I like has made me much less stressed.

More so, as long as you have the prerequisites, you can take any class. Senior seminar, for example, is a class that I've been waiting to take since my sister had it four years ago. Advanced writing is another one that isn't open until junior year, but I've wanted to take since my oldest sister had it in 2006.

The bad: College stress-

I'm probably the least college crazed of all of my friends, (I only took the SATs once, and I've just barely started my college essay,) and even I've been prone to random panic attacks. I guess it suits that the year in which I'm the least stressed by high-school I'd be the most stressed by something else entirely.

Preparing for college is oddly different from getting schoolwork done, because you really have to rely entirely on yourself for motivation. Unfortunately, that's an area in which I struggle. I have one friend who has finished her fourth and likely final draft of her college essay. As I said earlier, I'm on my first.

The good: Eating out of the cafeteria-

The cafeteria at lunch time is easily one of my least favorite places in the school. The crowdedness, the noise, the smells of several hundred foods being mixed together in a rather unpleasant manner all make it a pretty frantic and undesirable place to eat. Plus, I've had far too many experiences standing awkwardly in the middle of the lunch room turning in circles trying to figure out where my friends were.

To be honest, I haven't eaten in the lunch room since the first semester of my sophomore year. Through a series of events I wound up eating with my friends who were seniors and I was never disappointed to be away from the mess and insanity of the cafeteria.

The bad: Senioritis-

It's universal enough to have merited its own Wikipedia

article, which lists symptoms as "procrastination, lack of motivation, a drop in academic performance, a desire to drop out of school, and "coasting", which is the act of going through classes with very little concentration or application of intent along with truancy and frequent tardiness."

For me, senioritis actually started creeping up in my sophomore year. As anyone who's had friends graduate a year or more ahead of them can tell you, nothing makes

you want to graduate as much as knowing people who already are.

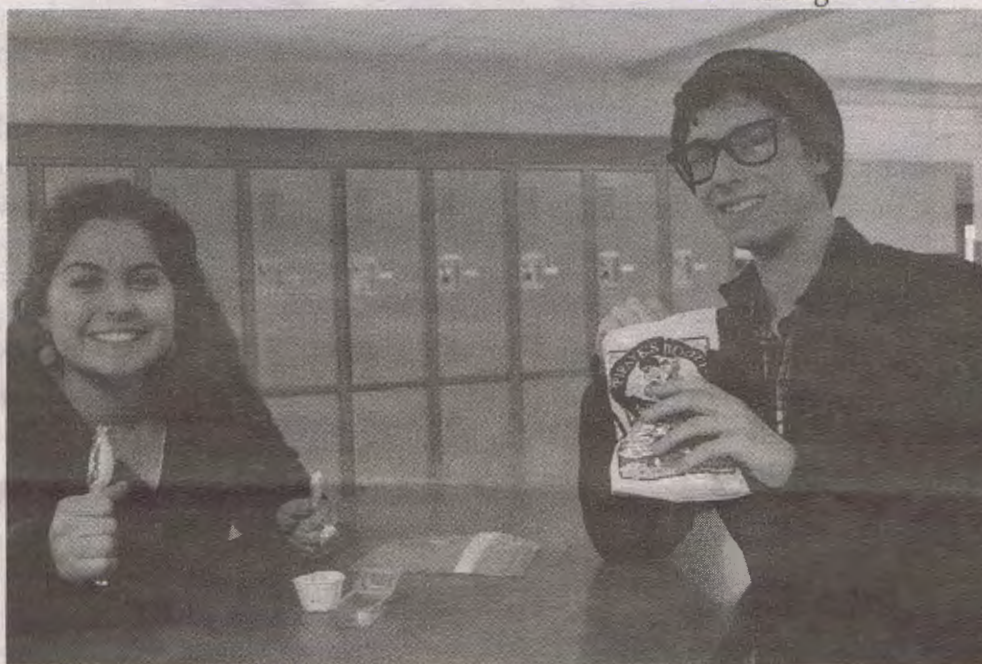
But even that is nowhere near the lack of motivation I've felt this year. It's probably because after four years I finally feel like I get to move on to the next part of my life. I can just pretend that the next eight months don't count.

The good: Class unity-

Senior year is usually noted for being the year when a class comes together. Some people might dispute this, but I think that even this early in the year, that's already beginning to happen in the class of 2012, and it's certainly been my experience.

Even when people aren't speaking one-on-one, there's easily a lot more respect and interest in others than when we were younger. I've noticed this especially in classes that are discussion based, people respond to each other and agree and disagree based not on who they're friends with, but whose opinions they genuinely feel strongly about.

In most of my classes I've begun to talk to classmates who I've never thought of as people I'd ever relate to. I think it can simply be attributed to the fact that people become more mature as they get older. Popularity and social groups become less important, or at least more arbitrary.



Eating lunch in the core and new friends are just a few of the best parts of senior year!



Annika Barth
Op-Ed Writer

LOOKING FORWARD

As a freshman, naturally the first words that come out of my mouth when asked to describe the high school are gigantic, confusing, unfamiliar – yet enthralling. Familiarity can be comforting but after four years of it at the middle school, familiarity became boring. I have walked the same hallways through the same building taking generally the same types of classes, all chosen for me, with the same

people for four years. Although the maze of new hallways, which I'd only had

a chance to visit twice before the first day of high school, was intimidating it was something other than boring. I began to have a little fun trying to make sense of the building on my own and feeling almost somewhat when I found my classes without getting embarrassingly lost. Not only am I entertained by the layout of a new building, I am also excited for the chance to choose more of my own classes. Although as a freshman I still have very little freedom to do that, the completely unfamiliar way in which my schedule is set up is a refreshing change.

That's exactly what I'm hopping to create for myself; a good time, not a perfect time but a good time.

At the middle school my grade was split in half each year. Eighty students were placed in each group and 20 of them were those I attended every class with, most of which were located in one section of the school. Now, my classrooms are not restricted to one wing of the building; instead they are spread throughout it. My classes no longer consist of the familiar faces of students in my grade; they are intertwined with students of all ages. The scheduling differences between the middle and the high school have presented the much-needed opportunity to branch out, meet new people and experience a whole new culture unlike the one at the middle school.

Every day, I swim through a crowd of students and realize I have forgotten the humbling experience of looking up at every face and finding it to be older and more mature than myself. Although that

is somewhat saddening as I do not wish to be looked upon as a baby, the fun of it far overrides the mild

frustration. Finally, I no longer have to deal with the naïveté of younger kids – a long awaited break – because I myself am the youngest and least mature. I am sure there are plenty of upperclassmen who want nothing to do with me but so far it's been an adventure getting to know those who do. The change in social scene I've been so desperate for has finally come about with new friendships, especially those I've managed to make with upperclassmen. The obvious changes in schedules and classes, the building and the people there have brought about an entirely new atmosphere. It gives the feeling of a clean slate, a new beginning, a second chance, to a much greater extent than a different year at the same middle school ever did. There is the chance to make every new experience the best it can be. The opportunity to be creative and join a wider variety of extracurricular activities has prompted me to step outside my comfort zone which allows me to gain confidence, get my feet under myself and improve. I have been pushed to become more independent and responsible, consequently becoming ever so slightly more mature which is a reassuring, exhilarating sensation that my middle school experience lacked.

Every person who's heard I have just started high school exclaims what a good time it is. That's exactly what I'm hopping to create for myself; a good time, not a perfect time but a good time.





A BORN SKIER

Emerson Maclean
Guest Writer

Blanketed in soft white powdery snow, the mountain betrays little movement but the soft gust of wind as it skips through the trees. Suddenly a figure appears, covered completely from head to toe in thick winter clothing. Poles at his side and skis parallel, he plunges himself onto the trail. In and out, through the trees he travels until he gets to the bottom where the warm lodge is sitting, waiting. The mysterious figure pulls off his helmet and goggles.

It is Elliot Young, a high school senior whose free time during the winter season is mostly taken up by skiing on the high school team and for fun. But how did he start? How did he become the respected skier many people know him as today?



Young skiing one of his first home-made rails.

"I can't exactly remember when I started skiing but it was probably around the age of four," said Young. Elliot Young enjoys going skiing on weekends and practicing weekly during the winter with the ski team. The first mountain he ever skied was Black Mountain. He got his first pair of skis when he was six.

"My entire family skis so it was just a matter of time before I started," he said. As Young grew up, he began to ski more often, making weekend trips up north. When he was unable to get a ride to the mountains he improvised by making homemade jumps and eventually rails in his backyard. Although he began with cheap skis like his old Rossignols which he expressed his anger towards for being "basically two boards with a crappy paint job", he has now upgraded to Atomics which he is really happy about.

Last winter, Young fractured his humerus after landing wrong on his side when he lost control mid air going off one of his homemade jumps. This injury dashed any chance of him skiing for the rest of the season. Though he couldn't ski, he continued to think up new designs for jumps and rails at his house. These jumps and rails he makes with the help of his friends. They make the rails out of tubes of PVC piping nailed to a wooden board with planks perpendicular at either

end for support. The jumps need to be packed with snow for several days before they can try tricks off them.

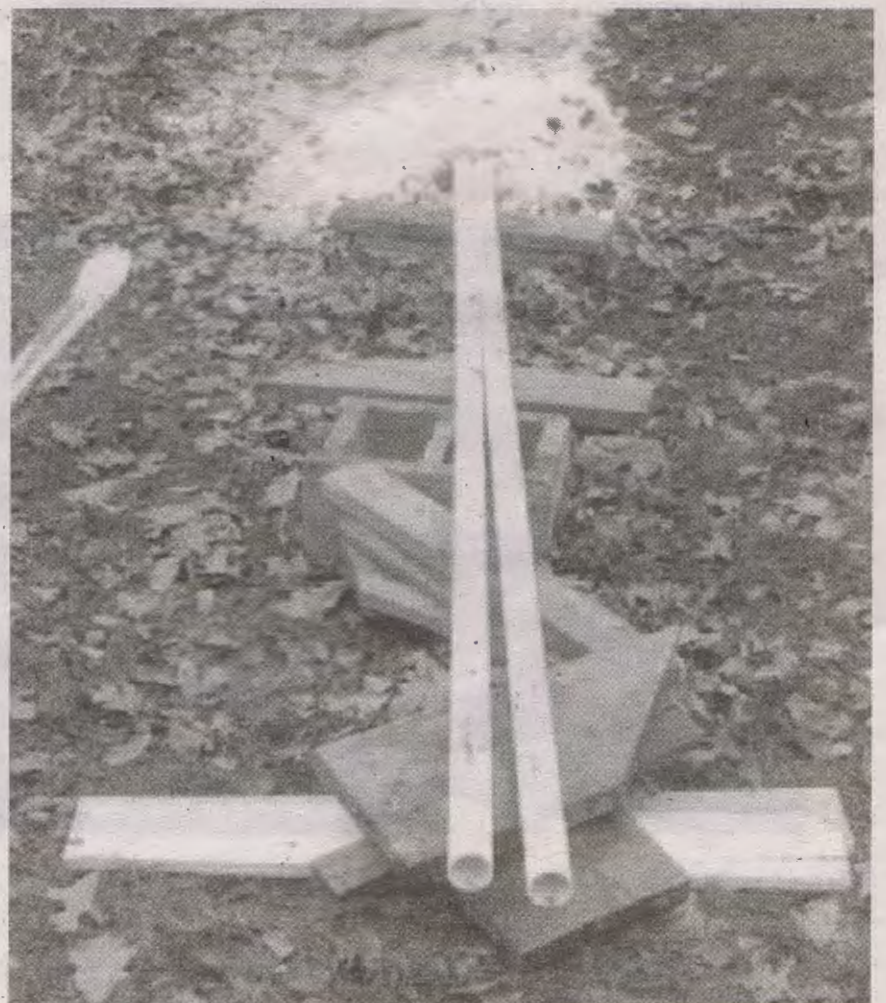
Brogan O'Rourke, one of the top dogs on the high school ski team, commented on Young's injury. "I feel bad that he couldn't ski," he said with a frown. "Kids both on and off the team know him to be very ambitious when it comes to skiing!"

Since Young got his driver's license sophomore year, he has made it his goal to ski even more. "Elliot was one of the first kids in our grade to both have his license and a car and he has

"Kids both on and off the team know him to be very ambitious when it comes to skiing!"

always volunteered to drive when we couldn't find a ride," O'Rourke said. Last season was Young's first year on the ski team. He didn't make it onto the varsity team but hopes to this year. "Elliot has a good chance in getting pushed up to varsity because the main thing our coach looks for is the desire to improve on one's skiing skill," O'Rourke said.

Young commented on his injury by saying, "This fractured humerus won't bring me down, I actually find it to be quite humorous!" Elliot Young plans to ski for the rest of his life. He even wants to eventually live in the mountains close to a ski resort. He said that he would most likely live near Wildcat because that is farther north than Gunstock and will get more snow during winter. The reason he wants to move up there is so he can enjoy skiing even more often than he does now!



YOU GOT NOTHIN'!!



Nick Chiodo
Sports Writer

Have you ever been to a sports game and constantly heard the sound of rowdy fans screaming in your ear? Fans at Oyster River are probably to blame.

One of the most important parts of being a fan is cheering and chirping, or as others might define it, yelling at the opposing team to00 trying too get them too make a mistake. Chirping can come in many different forms, such as chanting in a synchronized fashion or yelling at one player, or in other words, "calling them out." Chirping makes sporting events come alive and adds

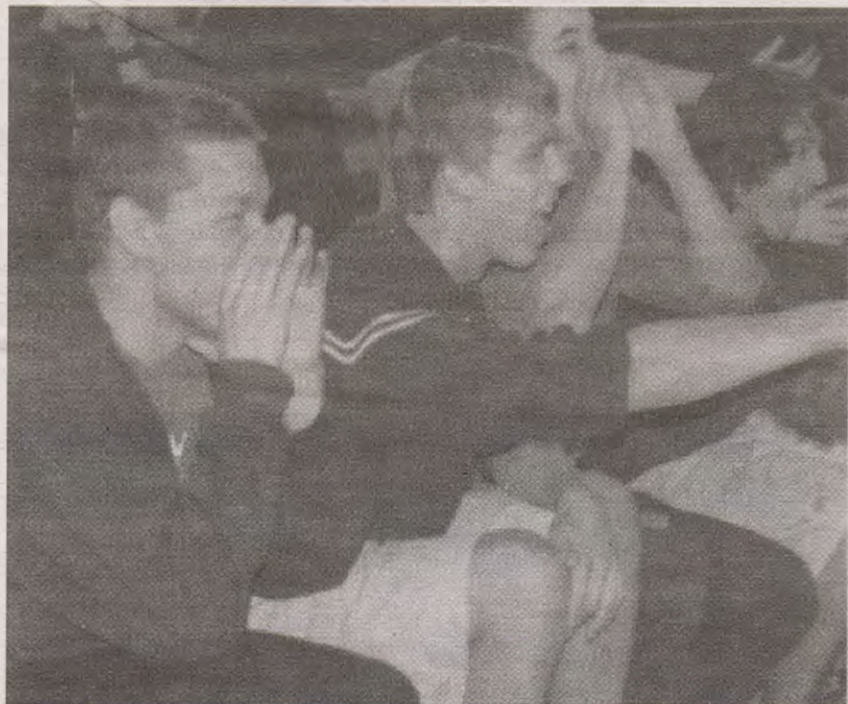
"I love chirping; it really adds to the game."

energy to games.

Senior Elliot Young said he is an avid chirper at soccer games. "I love chirping, it really adds to the game" he stated. He went on to say that some of his favorite chirps are when he calls out an individual player and in a way "mocks" them. Some of his favorite chirps include "you got nothing" and "here we go white," with white indicating the color of the home jerseys of Oyster River. Students are the main participants in chirping, but sometimes even the parents get into it; it's almost like a tradition.

The players of the teams also think that chirping is a vital part of

"When I hear people chirp me, I just know that I'm better than them so it doesn't really bother me."



People chirping at a volleyball game.

the game. They like the way that students are being passionate about their school and teams. Alex Johnson, a veteran of the boys varsity soccer team, claims that when he gets chirped or hears the other team getting chirped he feels inspired to play better. "When I hear people chirp me, I just know that I'm better than them so it doesn't really bother me". He said that it feels good to know that other people care about the sport enough to get all riled up and chirp people. The players thrive off the energy of the crowd and it makes them play harder. It also makes the players of the opposing teams feel a sense of unease when dealing with a rowdy crowd, and they become prone to mistakes.

How do the coaches feel about chirping? Mr. Cangello, a four-



year JV soccer coach, feels a little differently. He says that chirping can go too far, "I think it's unnecessary when the fans Chirpers at another volleyball game.

negatively chirp people, only positive chirps are okay." -Most coaches feel the same way. They want the crowd to be respectful to every player, even if they are on the opposing team.

Chirping is also evident at other sporting events, such as volleyball games. Those fans have specific chants that they do when a certain play is made. Ian Szilagyi, a senior, really likes the chanting at the volleyball games, "I really think it makes the game more fun and lively for not only the fans but also the players". He went on to say that he chants have been around for awhile. "I remember last year when the seniors would all wear orange and do the different chants it was pretty cool."

Chirping can sometimes get out of hand. Occasionally fans will be asked to quiet down and lay off all the negative chirping, but this does not stop it from happening. Chirping is almost like an art form it can be expressed in many different ways. It is all up to the fans and how far are they willing to go.

"I really think it makes the game more fun and lively for not only the fans, but also the players."

SPORTS SUMMARIES



Nick Chiodo
Sports Writer



Girls/Boys soccer

The girls varsity soccer team has had a very successful season. Their record so far is 13-2 in the season and 9 of those games have also been shut outs! They are in great shape coming in to the division 2 playoffs. The team is was number 1 in its division and players hope to remain in that spot and claim the championship title. The girls first playoff game is Wednesday October 26 against Trinity.

The boys varsity soccer teams currently ranked 8th in the standings and is fighting to try and claim a home field



game for the upcoming play offs starting October 27. The boys only need one more wins to officially lock in a home game. On October 18 the boys came one step closer with an incredible 2-0 win over 4th seed Hollis-Brookline. The boys on Friday October

21 tied Saint Thomas 1-1 in an incredible game that was fought hard by both teams. The boys first playoff is against Souhegan on October 27.

Girls/boys xc

The boys and girls Cross Country team has always been taken seriously. Every year they are factors that



other schools have to watch out for. Upcoming evens for the team is Meet of Champions and the division finals (Class I) which they hope to defend their title as state champions.

Field hockey

The girls field hockey team has earned the 13th seed spot in this year's upcoming state tournament! The goal of all the girls on the team was to qualify for states and now that they have done their attention can be focused completely on the upcoming tournament. The girls travel to Merrimac Valley on Thursday, October 30 to try and earn redemption after their 3-1 loss to 4th seeded Merrimac two weeks ago.

Volleyball

The girls volleyball team is trying to defend their championship title . The girls last season won the championship to close out there undefeated season. This year although they do not have a undefeated record the girls hope to make it to the championship and claim the title again! Coach Dan Brodeur the veteran volley ball coach stated that " the girls are having a very successful season this year" right now their record is 12 wins to only 2 losses. Captains Kyla McCabe-Corror and Katie are leading the team hopefully to another championship. Upcoming games to look forward to are St. Thomas Aquinas (14-2) on October 18 and Somersworth (10-4) at a later date.

